

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

MC-02 SCS-03 AF-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OPIC-03 EB-07 NSAE-00

CIAE-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00

PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 IO-10 /109 W

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Z O 251544Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5096

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PARATROOPS MUTINY: SITREP NO. FOUR

REF: LISBON 7007 DTG 251337Z NOV 75

1. STATE RADIO (EN) AT 3:00 PM REBROADCAST GENERAL STAFF COMMUNIQUE (SITREP THREE). RADIO AND TV STATIONS CONTINUE NORMAL PROGRAMMING. RTP HAS JUST CONCLUDED A CHUCK CONNORS WESTERN. BOTH EN AND RCP RPT RCP CARRIED A BRIEF ITEM FROM OPORTO THAT THE AIR FORCE WAS MAINTAINING ITS "HEIRARCHICAL AUTHORITY" UNDER MORAIS DA SILVA. (COMMENT: THIS COULD MEAN THAT MORAIS DA SILVA IS IN OPORTO. FACT THAT COMMUNIST-DOMINATED RCP BROADCAST THIS ITEM IS A GOOD SIGN.) RCP STUDIOS ARE NOW BEING GUARDED BY TROOPS FROM LISBON'S RADICAL FIRST ENGINEER REGIMENT.

2. LISBON'S PORTELA AIRPORT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. AIR POLICE AT THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE AIRPORT, HOWEVER, ARE NOW ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS -- NOT THEIR NORMAL
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ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND MUTINEERS HAVE JUST OCCUPIED MILITARY SIDE.

3. THE CAVALRY SCHOOL AT SANTAREM (40 MILES NORTHEAST OF LISBON) IS PREPARING ITS TROOPS FOR MOVEMENT, ARMA IS RELIABLY INFORMED. TROOPS HAVE NOT MOVED AS YET. SANTAREM TROOP COMMANDER IS CAPTAIN MAIA, HERETOFORE STRONG SUPPORTER OF MODERATE CAUSE. WE WOULD ASSUME IF HIS TROOPS MOVE THEY WILL BE IN SUPPORT OF MODERATES.

4. EMBOFF REPORTS THAT OPORTO-LISBON HIGHWAY BETWEEN RIO MAIOR AND CAPITAL WAS COMPLETELY OPEN BETWEEN 11 AM - 1 PM TODAY. NO ROADBLOCKS; NO SIGN OF MILITARY TRAFFIC. ENTERING LISBON, RALIS MILITARY DISPOSITIONS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM HIGHWAY. NO ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, WAS DISCERNIBLE AT RALIS.

5. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS BEEN CLOSETED WITH SENIOR ADVISORS AT BELEM PALACE MOST OF THE DAY, WE UNDERSTAND. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARAIS, PEZARAT CORREIA, SOUSA E CASTRO AND OTHERS ARE WITH HIM.

6 COMMENT: MOTIVE BEHIND PARATROOP ACTION STILL NOT FULLY CLEAR. ABSENCE OF COMPLEMENTARY MOVES SUGGESTS THIS IS NOT A COORDINATED COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MOVE BY RADICALIZED ELEMENTS OF THE PARATROOPERS STEMS, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, FROM MORAIS DA SILVA'S TOUGH STAND WHEN INDISCIPLINE EMERGED WITHIN THE PARATROOPS AFTER THEY DESTROYED RADIO RENASCENCA TRANSMITTERS ON NOVEMBER 7. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PARATROOPS' GRIEVANCES, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ULTRA-LEFT FORCES -- WITH OR WITHOUT PCP SUPPORT -- PRODDER PARATROOPS INTO THEIR MUTINY. WHETHER OR NOT MUTINY ORIGINALLY HAD LIMITED AIMS, IT IS NOW PLAYING A COMMANDING ROLE IN THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS.

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